

"If the People Rule Why Don't They Get What They Want?"

W. T. Alexandria, Goliad, Texas.—In answer to Senator Owen's question will say the people do rule and get what they vote for, but not what they want, on account of yellow dog politics. On the morning of election the bosses come around with whisky and cigars and say, "Now boys, let's voter 'er straight," and in she goes—straight. This is short, but the best I have seen.

M. J. E., Kankakee, Ill.—Because they do not know how to get it. They bark up the wrong tree. The government has wasted much money in its efforts to regulate the packers and what has it accomplished? If all cities would require inspection on the hoof of all meat sold within them the beef trust attorneys would not be daring United States courts as they are now and have been for years. Why should not our government collect an excise tax from American heresses who marry foreign title bearers? Also why should not an export tax be placed on all food stuffs and manufactured articles sold abroad cheaper than at home, equal to fifty per cent of the difference between the home and foreign price. When the people learn that the remedy for most of the evils of which they complain lies in their own hands they will have fewer complaints.

Thomas E. Moore, Lexington, Ky.—Why the people do not rule is because they have not secured necessary legislation for the protection and safeguarding of the elections, covering every conceivable fraud, imposing heavy fines, imprisonment, to which should be added a reward, payable out of said fines, for detection and conviction of infractions of the election laws. Coupled with the initiative, referendum and recall the people will rule, as at present there seems to be an awakening all along the line. Let the farmers see to it that they have representation in our state legislatures and that unlimited taxation be not granted for any purpose.

H. C. Trowbridge, Austin, Minn.—Do the people rule? They never have and never will until they have the initiative, the referendum and the recall. How can they expect to rule when their enemies select all the judges to be appointed and select men who always put money about the man when our supreme court will twist the laws and constitution so that kidnapping is legal, as per their decision in the Hayward, Moyer and Pettibone case in Colorado. Does any one suppose for a minute, if it had been one of the captains of industry that they would decide that kidnapping was one of inalienable rights guaranteed under the constitution, for the benefit of conspirators. Where our courts strain as hard to set aside unjust laws as they do just ones then the people will have some respect for the courts and not till then. Let a state pass a good law, a law that will be for the benefit of the people, but if that law in any way tries to regulate big business, some little federal judge immediately issues an injunction restraining the state from putting the law into effect. It is appealed from one court to another and finally reaches our supreme court. We all know about what the decision will be. Mark Hanna said the supreme court was their bulwark, and the people are realizing it as

never before. If a state cannot execute its just laws, what chance does an individual of moderate means stand before the federal courts? Our judges should be elected. Too many get their appointments for some work that they have done that does not commend them to the people, but the administration, under pressure of the corporations, feels bound to take care of them. If we had just judges it would go a long ways toward righting things.

F. E. Hammond, Cuba, N. Y.—When direct nominations, the initiative, referendum and recall are secured by all the states in the union, the people will rule and get what they want. Then the people, through the initiative, can and will get other reforms. For more than twenty years I have been advocating these measures. The progress made in the last two years gives assurance of a more just and wholesome democracy in the future—not only in the United States, but the world over. Keep right on with your good work, Mr. Bryan, of educating the people. You are the greatest advocate of the general good and the most comprehensive teacher of our time, and history will so name you.

M. J. Keith, Summerdale, Ala.—The people do get what they want; they want bosses first; then they want whatever the bosses permit them to have. They have a high tariff schedule to look over that pleases, then three cents a pound tariff tax on sugar that seems to make them feel good; that is what they want. A laboring man, as an argument against the democrats, said to me: "In Cleveland's administration in 1893-4 I only got 75 cents a day; now I get \$1.25." He has been a laborer all his life and saves no more on day wages now than in '93. He has what he wants—a bushel of ignorance. He is a representative of the laboring masses.

Benjamin Clow, Dalton, Mass.—Having had the pleasure of reading The Commoner from its first number permit me to say, I have been greatly pleased and instructed in branches of intelligent education which all ordinary citizens greatly need and in the replies lately published by The Commoner. As the enclosed note taken from the Berkshire Evening Eagle of July 15 fairly represents my ideas, you can use it if so inclined; in fact I see no way of escape until the people are granted the right of recall of all officers that misrepresent.

Victor Demont, Cissau Park, Ill.—My answer to the query is: Simply and solely because the people permit their lawmakers, their representatives, to dictate the peoples' wants; and the people (who are law-abiding and patriotic) submit to the dictation of the lawmakers whom they elect and trust, while these lawmakers, holding their constituents as easy marks, forget, neglect; yes, they ignore, the people and their wants. The people can get what they want when they insist upon it. The people can rule when they are as earnest and as eager to conserve their own interests as the lawmakers are to conserve their own interests. Let the people elect men who are pledged, and who will vote for the people, and not for the combines, trusts, syndicates, railroads, express companies, bankers, brewers, etc.

These interests can, will and always do look out for themselves; but the people have never risen to the realization of their own power and personal interests, nor have they measured up to the true dignity of American citizenship. When the people elect congressmen, senators and

members of the legislature to represent the people then the people will get what they want, and not until then. So long as the people's representatives consult and consort with the representatives of the corporations so long will the corporations rule, and not the people.

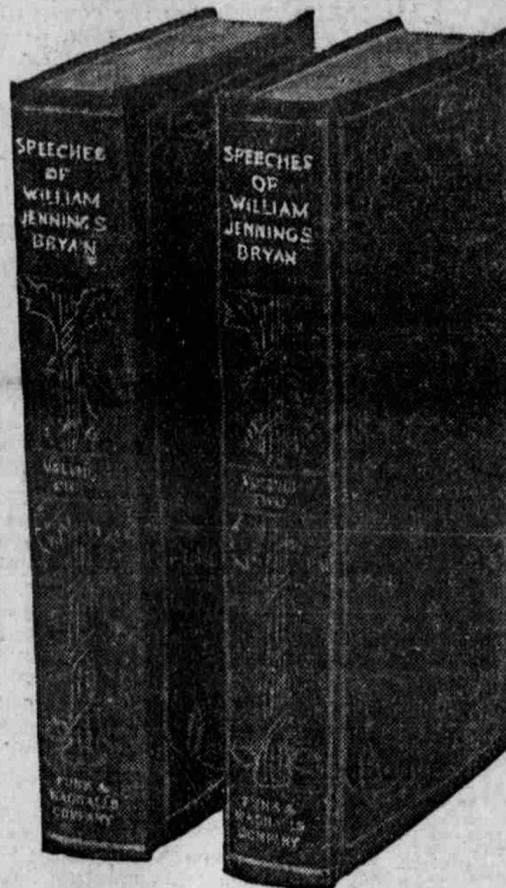
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